

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 BRASIL 09900 012129Z

ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00

SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 /050 W

-----023808 012131Z /64

O R 012100Z DEC 77

FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4973

INFO AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO

AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BRASILIA 9900

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PINT, BR

SUBJECT: GEISEL ENDORSES DIALOGUE ON LIMITED POLITICAL REFORMS

REF: BRASILIA 9585

1. IN MAJOR POLITICAL SPEECH CLOSING NOVEMBER 30-DECEMBER 1 MEETING OF ARENA NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, PRESIDENT GEISEL FOR FIRST TIME PERSONALLY ENDORSED ONGOING POLITICAL DIALOGUE BEING CONDUCTED BY SENATE PRESIDENT PORTELLA (REFTEL), STATING THAT "CURRENT POLITICAL MOMENT IS ONE OF FRANK EVOLUTION." PRESIDENT ACKNOWLEDGED "THERE IS NO DOUBT" AS TO WIDESPREAD PUBLIC DESIRE FOR INSTITUTIONALIZATION OF REVOLUTION AND THAT "THOUGHT IS BEING GIVEN TO ENDING THE LAWS OF EXCEPTION" (E.G., INSTITUTIONAL ACT NO 5) WHICH, BECAUSE OF THE PEACEFUL EVOLUTION OF NATIONAL LIFE, ARE BECOMING UNESSENTIAL AND CAN BE SUBSTITUTED BY "ADEQUATE CONSTITUTIONAL SAFEGUARDS." IT IS ALSO DESIRED, PRESIDENT SAID, "THAT THE SECURITY OF THE STATE AND OF SOCIETY BE PROVIDED WITH PROMPT AND EFFICIENT INSTRUMENTS OF DEFENSE WHICH, HOWEVER, DO NOT SACRIFICE, EXCEPT WITHIN THOSE MINIMAL LIMITS ACKNOWLEDGED IN EACH CASE TO BE INDISPENSABLE AND JUST, THE INDIVIDUAL LIBERTIES AND SECURITY OF THE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 BRASIL 09900 012129Z

CITIZEN." STATING THAT IN THIS REGARD THE OBJECTIVE OF HIS GOVERNMENT HAS "ALWAYS BEEN DEFINED AND CLEARLY EXPRESSED," GEISEL QUOTED FROM PREVIOUS MAJOR SPEECHES BETWEEN SEPTEMBER 1973 AND DEC 1976 TO SUPPORT OF HIS CLAIM THAT "THE PROMOTION OF A SOUND POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE COUNTRY, ALWAYS IN A CLIMATE OF STABILITY AND SECURITY, WAS AND IS THE PRIME OBJECTIVE OF ALL ACTIONS OF MY GOVERNMENT, CONDITIONED ONLY, IN FACT, BY THE NEED TO CREATE THE

PSYCHOSOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CONDITIONS INDISPENSABLE TO THAT END."

2. GEISEL SAID THIS HAS BEEN TRUE REGARDLESS OF "DISAPPOINTING STAGNATIONS AND FRUSTRATING RETROGRESSIONS", SUCH AS THE SERIOUS ECONOMIC CRISIS FOLLOWING THE ARAB OIL EMBARGO, CLAIMING THAT TODAY'S CLIMATE OF "AMPLE DEBATE OF POLITICAL QUESTIONS" RESULTED BECAUSE OF HIS GOVERNMENT'S "PERSISTENT AND VIGILANT ACTIONS." THIS CLIMATE, HE ADDED, LED THE GOVERNMENT TO GUARANTEE GREATER FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION TO POLITICAL THOUGHT VIA THE PRESS. "THUS IT IS NOW POSSIBLE TO ENCOURAGE THE HONEST WORK OF SOUNDING OUT THE VARIOUS RESPONSIBLE SECTORS OF BRAZILIAN SOCIETY TO TRANSLATE, INTO A CONCRETE PROGRAM, THE CONSENSUS THAT IS ACHIEVED ON THE MOST URGENT POLITICAL REFORMS, WITH A VIEW TO THE DEMOCRATIC REFINEMENT OF THE REGIME."

3. STATING HIS SUPPORT "ALL DOWN THE LINE" FOR PORTELLA'S EFFORTS, WHICH, HE CLAIMED, WERE FAVORABLY VIEWED BY ALL BUT "KNOWN GROUPS OF PESSIMISTS AND OPPORTUNISTS," GEISEL SAID HIS GOVERNMENT WAS OPEN TO SUGGESTIONS AND PROPOSALS "MADE IN GOOD FAITH," BUT WARNED THAT IT COULD NOT ACCEPT "THE POSTURE OF THOSE WHO, CALLING THEMSELVES

CHAMPIONS OF A CRYSTALLINE AND UNMARRED STATE OF LAW, COMPLAIN AND TAKE TOTAL OFFENSE WHEN ONE OF THEIR KIND IS BROUGHT TO JUSTICE TO BE JUDGED FOR AN ALLEGED TRANSGRESSION OF A LEGAL PRECEPT." (THAT REFERENCE WAS TO THE LEGAL PROCESS AGAINST MDB PRESIDENT ULYSSES GUIMARAES (PARA 20, REFTEL) WHO WAS ABSOLVED OF CHARGES BY UNANIMITOUS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 BRASIL 09900 012129Z

MOUS REFUSAL OF SUPREME FEDERAL TRIBUNAL TO HEAR THE CASE AGAINST HIM LESS THAN 24 HOURS BEFORE THE PRESIDENT SPOKE). GEISEL CONTINUED WITH A BRIEF DEFENSE OF ELECTORAL RESTRICTIONS ADOPTED IN APRIL'S REGRESSIVE "PACKAGE", ENDING THIS SECTION OF SPEECH WITH THE STATEMENT THAT "THE CURRENT MOMENT EMBODIES A STEP OF THE HIGHEST SIGNIFICANCE TO THE COUNTRY IN THE SENSE OF SUBSTANTIALLY REFINING ITS POLITICAL REGIME".

4. GEISEL CONCLUDED WITH AN EXHORTATION TO ARENA TO PUT ITS SHOULDER TO THE WHEEL IN PREPARATION FOR THE NOVEMBER 1978 ELECTIONS, INVEIGHING AGAINST THE "DEFEATISM OF FALSE PROPHETS" WITHIN THE PARTY AND URGING THE PARTY TO PUT ASIDE CONCERNS OVER "SOMETIMES UNCERTAIN ECONOMIC PERSPECTIVES." HE TOOK PAINS, HOWEVER, TO DASH THE HOPES OF NUMEROUS ARENISTAS CONCERNED ABOUT THEIR ELECTORAL PROSPECTS BY STATING CATEGORICALLY THAT THERE WOULD BE NO EXTENSION OF MANDATES OR ANY OTHER CHANGES IN THE RULES GOVERNING THE 1978 ELECTIONS EXCEPT THOSE "OF SECONDARY IMPORTANCE OR RESULTING FROM BIPARTISAN AGREEMENT." HE DID NOT ELABORATE.

5. COMMENT AND ANALYSIS BY SEPTTEL.
JOHNSON

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: GOVERNMENT REFORM
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 01-Dec-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977BRASIL09900
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770446-0434
Format: TEL
From: BRASILIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t197712106/aaaadmei.tel
Line Count: 116
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 02fecefb-c188-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 BRASILIA 9585
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08-Dec-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 115401
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GEISEL ENDORSES DIALOGUE ON LIMITED POLITICAL REFORMS
TAGS: PINT, BR
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/02fecefb-c188-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009